



# WestNiagara

## Secondary School

August 30th, 2024

Wolfpack and Families,

### **Welcome to WNSS and the 2024-2025 School Year!**

I have compiled a number of reminders and information items below, and as attachments with this email. I do apologize for the length of this letter. Expect future correspondence to be more brief.

#### **1) School Bell Schedule**

Period 1	8:05am - 9:10am
Travel Time	9:10am - 9:15am
Period 2	9:15am - 10:15am
Travel Time	10:15am -10:20am
Period 3	10:20am -11:20am
Lunch	11:20am -12:05pm
Period 4	12:05pm - 1:05pm
Travel Time	1:05pm - 1:10pm
Period 5	1:10pm - 2:10pm

Please note that students are expected to use travel time to get to their next class on time. Using the school snack bar during travel time is not possible.

#### **2) Beginning and End of Day - traveling and safety**

- Please always remember that safety is the most important thing
- Local travel is heavy at the beginning and end of the day, like at any busy school, so please leave yourself plenty of time

- This is especially true on the morning of the first day - if you are choosing to drive your child to school on the first day, please prepare yourself for unusually high traffic levels and delays
- When picking up or dropping off your child - please drive slowly and carefully and watch especially carefully for pedestrians at all times
- School Buses get priority when it comes to entering and leaving the school driveways. They are on a schedule and have elementary school runs after their secondary runs. Please give buses the right of way at all times.
- Dropping off early, and picking up after 2:30pm is a good way to avoid the rush
- All bus travel times and stops can be found in the parent section of NSTS.ca
- **It is highly recommended to have your bus number, departure time or wave, and loading area (1,2,3) committed to memory, or available on a piece of paper or device** - there is no other way to identify which bus is yours
- Wave 1 departs at 2:20pm, Wave 2 departs at 2:30pm
- The bus zone where students are dropped off in the morning will be the zone they are picked up at the end of the day

### 3) **Late Bus**

- For students staying after school for sports, clubs, or other school activities, a late bus is available
- Both of the late buses leave the school each day at 4:45pm
- Routes and Times for the two late bus runs are shown below

#### **Route 3904**

Depart WNSS (back campus)	4:45pm
Smithville Public School	4:57pm
Caistor Centre Loading zone	5:08pm
Gainsborough Public School	5:20pm

#### **Route 3905**

Depart WNSS (back campus)	4:45pm
Grand Avenue Public School	4:49pm
Lakeview Public School	4:54pm
Smith Public School	5:00pm
Central School (rear loading zone)	5:06pm
Jacob Beam Public School	5:17pm

Senator Gibson Public School	5:19pm
Twenty Valley Public School	5:29pm

- Students need to sign up for the late bus each day they are riding it, using the “Late Bus” app on the “My Apps” page of their student portal - the same place Aspen and D2L are found (Student Login, MyApps, Secondary Late Bus signup)



#### 4) **Student Activity Fee**

- Starting on Tuesday, the student activity fee will be available to pay on School Cash online - \$40
- This fee allows us to not charge a grad fee or general athletic fee, as most schools do
- This fee allows us to bring in guest speakers that benefit students and families
- This fee allows us to give hoodies to incoming grade 9 students
- This fee allows us to subsidize school events and trips to pass minimal costs along to students and families

#### 5) **Lunch**

- The best plan for students on the first, and every, day of school is to bring a lunch
- I also recommend that students make a plan with their friends of where to meet for lunch on the first day - that can alleviate a lot of stress
- We have an excellent school cafeteria that is open as of the first day, and will begin with limited service and ramp up their operation as the year progresses
- Like all school cafeterias, ours does not have the capability to serve food to all students - hence the strong suggestion to default to bringing a lunch and to visit the cafeteria sometimes, as a treat

#### 6) **MSIP**

- All students have a Multi-Subject Instructional Period (MSIP) on their timetable
- MSIP is an excellent opportunity for students to do homework, catch up on missed work, work on projects, study for tests, explore their future courses, plan for post secondary life, read etc.
- If your student would like extra help in a particular subject that is not the specialty of their MSIP teacher, let an administrator know and we will work with you to get a match for them
- **MSIP is not optional**, and all students are expected to follow their timetable throughout the day, including MSIP
- It is not possible to sign your student out of MSIP (or any class) and have them be somewhere else in the building - if a student is signed out, they are expected to leave school as per the parent’s instructions

- An MSIP guide is attached to this email. It provides suggestions and resources on things you can, and should, do during MSIP

#### **7) Cell Phones**

- Cell phones are expected to be away and silent during class time
- IF a student needs to use their phone for one of the MSIP activities, or other academic work, they can during MSIP ONLY - students need to be able to explain what they are working on to their MSIP teacher, and show them the activity - this rule may be adjusted over time

#### **8) Vaping**

- Vaping is not permitted anywhere on school property, or within 20m of school property
- Students vaping will face both a school consequence, and a referral to a bylaw officer who may issue a fine

#### **9) Timetable and Guidance Appointments**

- All students are encouraged to check their timetable before the first day to confirm their classes and room numbers
- Beginning now, if any student needs a guidance appointment, or wants to change their timetable, they can request to see a guidance counselor by clicking on "Student Supports" on the WNSS website ( [westniagara.dsb.org](http://westniagara.dsb.org) )
- Even if you have requested a timetable change, please continue to follow your current timetable until the change is put in place

#### **10) Lockers**

- Grade 9 and 10 students will be assigned a locker in the first week in their period 1 class
- Grade 11 and 12 students will be able to request a locker - a QR code will be available in the first week of classes
- The reason for this is not because we anticipate being short on lockers - we do not - the reason is that grade 11 and 12 students have frequently not used lockers in the past, and this makes it easier to track them

#### **11) Safety Waivers on SchoolCash online**

- Starting on Tuesday, families of any student taking science, family studies, family studies, and tech classes will have a safety waiver form to sign on SchoolCash online

## **12) Attachments**

- Please find the following documents attached to this message:
  - i) School Maps
  - ii) School Handbook
  - iii) Family Portal Instructions
  - iv) NSTS Portal Guide
  - v) MSIP Guide
  - vi) Community Care of West Niagara Food Drive Flyer

On behalf of the staff and administration at WNSS, I want to extend our most sincere welcome to each of you. It is going to be an amazing year! Enjoy your classes, and get involved in school activities.

As always, please reach out if I can help.

Mat Miller  
Principal, WNSS